

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

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FM USDEL TORREMOLINOS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETEL, ITU, PFOR

SUBJECT: ITU PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE, TORREMOLINOS,
SEPTEMBER 14 - OCTOBER 26, 1973, SITREP 7.

REF: TORREMOLINOS 9, PARA 7.

FOR EB/TD FROM USDEL TORREMOLINOS

1. COMMITTEE 7. IT TOOK THREE SESSIONS OF COMMITTEE TO
RESOLVE QUESTION SECOND DSG, SIZE OF ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL
AND ROTATION QUESTION.

2. COMMITTEE 7 DECISIONS ON THESE ISSUES FOLLOW: (DOC. 98)

"THE COMMITTEE FINALLY ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY THE FOLLOWING
RECOMMENDATION WHICH IS IN THREE PARTS:

A. "THE NEW ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL SHOULD BE COMPOSED
OF 36 MEMBERS DISTRIBUTED AMONG THE REGIONS AS FOLLOWS:

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REGION A: 7; REGION B: 7; REGION C: 4; REGION D: 9;

REGION E: 9.

B. "THERE SHOULD BE NO PROVISION FOR ROTATION IN THE CONSTITUTION (OR CONVENTION).

C. "THE PLENARY OF THE PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE SHOULD RECOMMEND TO THE MEMBERS PRESENT THAT, WHEN THEY EXERCISE THEIR SOVEREIGN RIGHT TO VOTE FOR MEMBERS OF THEIR CHOICE FOR THE ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL, THEY BEAR IN MIND THE NEED FOR A PROPER BALANCE BETWEEN EXPERIENCE, EXPERTISE AND CONTINUITY, ON THE ONE HAND, AND THE GREAT BENEFITS TO BE GAINED BY BOTH THE I.T.U. AND THE COUNTRIES INVOLVED FROM THE WIDEST POSSIBLE PARTICIPATION BY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AS MEMBERS OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL, ON THE OTHER HAND."

3. (DOC. 100): "AT ITS MEETING OF 21 SEPTEMBER 1973, THE COMMITTEE DECIDED UNANIMOUSLY TO RECOMMEND THAT NO ADDITIONAL POST OF DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL BE CREATED AT THE PRESENT TIME."

4. USDEL ACTIVELY OPPOSED INCREASE IN SIZE OF COUNCIL, BUT WAS SUPPORTED ONLY BY USSR AND NETHERLANDS AND BELGIUM. (LATTER TWO TIED SUPPORT FOR RETENTION OF 29-MAN COUNCIL WITH COMPULSORY ROTATION.) DESPITE PREVIOUS INDICATIONS OF SUPPORT OF OUR POSITION, UKDEL WAS ONE OF EARLY SPEAKERS SUPPORTING INCREASE TO 36 AND WAS SUBSEQUENTLY JOINED BY FRANCE, ITALY, CANADA AND OTHERS. AFTER OVERWHELMING SUPPORT FOR INCREASE BECAME EVIDENT, THERE WAS PROPOSED THAT DISCUSSION SHIFT TO QUESTION OF COMPULSORY ROTATION PRIOR TO VOTE ON SIZE OF COUNCIL. DEBATE ON ROTATION INDICATED SHARP DIVISION BETWEEN MANY LDC'S WHO SUPPORTED AND MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS WHO OPPOSED COMPULSORY ROTATION AND REVEALED STRONG POSSIBILITY THAT SUCH MEASURE COULD BE APPROVED BY MAJORITY. AT THIS POINT, YEMENI DEL PROPOSED THAT COMPULSORY ROTATION NOT BE INCLUDED IN BASIC INSTRUMENT BUT THAT STATEMENT OF COMMITTEE BE SENT TO PLENARY ADVISING THAT COMMITTEE SUPPORTED ROTATION PRINCIPLE BUT BELIEVED IT SHOULD BE IMPLEMENTED WITHIN EACH REGION BY REGION MEMBERS. BY THIS POINT, USSR HAD PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED SUPPORT FOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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36 MAN COUNCIL, LEAVING US TOTALLY ISOLATED ON THIS ISSUE.

5. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, USDEL PROPOSED THREE POINT COMPROMISE PACKAGE AS SET FORTH ABOVE WHICH UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED.

6. AFTER LENGTHY DEBATE ON PROPOSAL FOR CREATION OF

ADDITIONAL POSITION OR POSITIONS OF DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL PROPOSED BY ARGENTINA, THE EASTERN EUROPEAN GROUP AND A FEW OTHERS, A CONSENSUS DEVELOPED AGAINST THE PROPOSAL. AT SUGGESTION OF THE CHAIRMANS OF COMMITTEE 7, WHO SENSED THE DEVELOPING AGREEMENT, THE COMMITTEE DECIDED UNANIMOUSLY TO RECOMMEND TO PLENARY THAT NO ADDITIONAL POST FOR DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL BE CREATED AT THIS TIME..

7. COMMITTEE THEN TURNED ITS ATTENTION TO QUESTION OF SELECTION AND TERM OF IFRB. TWO TRENDS DEVELOPED: ONE FAVORED ELECTION OF IFRB BY PLENIPOTENTIARY BUT CARRIED WITH IT THOUGHT THAT IFRB MEMBERSHIP SHOULD BE RENEWED PERIODICALLY. THREE OR FOUR YEAR TERMS WERE MENTIONED. THIS WOULD INVOLVE PLENIPOTENTIARY MEETINGS AT SHORTER INTERVALS THAN US FAVORS. SECOND TREND FAVORED ELECTION BY ADMINISTRATIVE RADIO CONFERENCES. THE PROPONENTS RECOGNIZED THAT GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE RADIO CONFERENCES MEET AT VERY LONG INTERVALS. THEY THEREFORE SUGGESTED THAT ANY WARC MEETING AT TIME IFRB IS TO BE ELECTED BE CONSIDERED COMPETENT TO ELECT IF MATTER IS PUT ON AGENDA OF SUCH CONFERENCE, OR, IF AUTHORIZED BY THE ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL. THEY EXPRESSED VIEW THAT RADIO CONFERENCE WAS BETTER FORUM TO ELECT TECHNICAL EXPERTS THAN A POLITICAL PLENIPOTENTIARY AND CITED PRECEDENTS OF DIRECTORS OF THE CCITT AND CCIR WHO ARE ELECTED BY THESE BODIES.

8. FACED WITH TWO CONFLICTING TENDENCIES--SHORTER PERIODS THAN WE PREFER, IF THE PLENIPOTENTIARY IS TO ELECT IFRB AND FORMAL PROPOSAL SUBMITTED IN FAVOR OF ELECTION BY THE PLENIPOTENTIARY, USDEL EXPRESSED ITS INTEREST IN CONFLICTING VISS; SAID IT HAD AN OPEN MIND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND WANTED TO HEAR MORE; AND STRESSED THAT NEED TO ELECT IFRB SHOULD NOT BE CONTROLLING FACTOR ON FREQUENCY OF PLENIPOTENTIARY MEETINGS. FINALLY, USDEL EXPRESSED HOPE THAT IN THIS FIELD TOO, A CONSENSUS COULD BE DEVELOPED WHICH WOULD RESULT IN OPTIMUM METHODOLOGY FOR PERIODIC ELECTION OF IFRB MEMBERS.

9. PLENARY. AT PLENARY FRIDAY AFTERNOON, COMMITTEE 7 DECISIONS (PARA 1 ABOVE) ON SIZE OF COUNCIL, ROTATION OF COUNCIL AND SECOND DSG ISSUE WERE ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY. PLENARY THEN TURNED TO DATE FOR ELECTION AND CLOSING DATES OF CANDIDATES FOR SG AND DSG POSTS AND ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL. YEMEN PROPOSED CLOSING DATE SEPTEMBER 26 AND ELECTION SEPTEMBER 28 FOR SG AND DSG AND OCTOBER 3 AND OCTOBER 5, RESPECTIVELY, FOR ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL.

THIS PROPOSAL SUPPORTED BY MANY DELEGATIONS BUT MATTER POSTPONED UNTIL MONDAY'S PLENARY AS OTHER DELEGATIONS, INCLUDING ARGENTINA, WANT SEPARATE ELECTION OF SG FROM DSG, OR DELAY UNTIL MUCH LATER.

10. AT ADJOURNMENT OF PLENARY, NIGERIA ANNOUNCED THAT TWO DRAFT RESOLUTIONS ON SOUTH AFRICA AND PORTUGAL WOULD BE IN DELEGATES' BOXES MONDAY MORNING AND THAT AFRICAN GROUP WANTS ITEMS ON AGENDA FOR MONDAY'S PLENARY.
(SEE SEPTELS.) BEAM

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